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report concerning several steel plants in the Soviet Zone of Germany

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GERMANY (Russian Zone)

Economic

Steel Plant Sitrep (January/February 1951.)

1. Eisenhüttenkombinat Ost (EKO), FUERSTENBERG

(a) When the erection of the furnace "PANZER" was started on the completion of the construction of the foundation for blast furnace No 1, it was realised that that foundation was ~~a misfit~~ had not been built properly. As a result, this first foundation will now have to be rebuilt. Technical experts consulted by H.V. Metallurgie, Ministry of Heavy Industry, DDR, blame the ~~EKO~~ technical manager, MUELLER, ~~and~~, for this faulty work and have openly voiced their criticism of MUELLER's capabilities and inexperience in consultations with KRAMER, ~~and~~, Head of H.V. Metallurgie. A ~~speedy~~ replacement of MUELLER is considered likely.

(b) Plans for the internal construction of the blast furnaces to be erected are now well under way.

(c) Work at the EKO has for several weeks been almost at a standstill because of a lack ~~owing to the non-availability~~ of parts for steel construction work; the hold-up has been caused by the constant delivery of 6 - 8m steel bars instead of 12m steel bars which are required for the work on hand.

(d) The scheduled electricity capacity requirements for the EKO have been raised to 108 MW in early February 1951 at the request of the HV Metallurgie, Ministry of Heavy Industry, ~~DDR~~, BERLIN. HV Energie, Ministry of Heavy Industry, ~~DDR~~, now plans to meet this increased demand not by, as originally projected, building a special power station at the steel works, but by re-building the completely dismantled VOGELSANG power station (formerly known as FUERSTENBERG power station).

(e) VOGELSANG, ~~it is planned~~ according to plan, will be fuelled by blast furnace gas (Gichtgas) (~~i.e. spare gases~~) which will reach the power station through a ~~4 km long~~ pipe-line, thus saving extra fuel. The re-equipment of VOGELSANG will require a complete set of boilers, generators and transformers to meet the required capacity and output of 108 MW, since after Russian dismantling in 1945-46, only the bare buildings have remained.

2. Eisenhüttenkombinat West, CALBE

(a) No further progress on the plans for this project will be possible until the results of the trial run of the 50 ton (No.2) test

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"Niederschacht" furnace are known. ~~(See para. 3 below).~~ The present technical (blast furnace) manager of Maxhütte, UNTERELLENBORN, LUX, ~~fmr~~, (~~ex~~-blast furnace manager of FRIEDENSHUETTE, Upper Silesia), has been selected to become this plant's technical manager.

3. Maxhütte, UNTERELLENBORN

(a) Plans are at present being prepared by the Zentrales Konstruktions Büro (ZKB) of the H.V. Metallurgie, Ministry of Heavy Industry, ~~DDR~~, BERLIN, for the erection of an electro-steel works at this plant. It is not known yet whether this extension is scheduled to be commenced in 1951 or 1952.

(b) "Niederschacht" furnace No. 2 was completed on 14th February, 1951 and drying ~~out~~ started on 15th February 1951. This is scheduled to last one month and it is hoped that first tests can be carried out with it in Mid-March 1951.

4. VEB BURG

(a) one new "FEIN BLECHVORGERUEST" together with the necessary pre-heating furnace, is to be erected during 1951.

(b) Plans for a rolling mill "Feinstrasse" extension of this plant are at present being prepared by the ZKB (see para. 3 (a) above). Target dates for this project are not known yet.

5. VEB HENNIGSDORF

Work on the completion of the extension of this steel works now in hand has almost been completed. Work on the erection of a "Stahlformglüherei" is making good progress. A second "Warmkalte Tiefgrube" with a capacity of 600 tons per day for cold ingots is being built now and its foundation has been completed. This pre-heating furnace is being copied from the one placed into operation at this plant in July 1950.

6. VEB OLBERNHAU

This plant is at present engaged on the rolling of stainless steel supplied by HENNIGSDORF.

7. VEB KIRCHMOESER

This rolling mill has had to stop all steel rolling work on 15th February 1951 for lack of steel slabs and ingots formerly supplied by VEB BRANDENBURG.

8. VEB HETTSTAEDT

The rolling mill section of this plant has been forced to cease all steel rolling work for lack of steel slabs and ingots formerly supplied by VEB BRANDENBURG on 13th February 1951.

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9. VEB ILSENBURG

(a) The sheet steel "Glühofen" fuelled with coal dust has now commenced operating.

(b) This plant's steel rolling mill section has also on 14th February 1951 stopped all such work owing to lack of steel ingots formerly obtained from VEB BRANDENBURG.

10. VEB RIESA

Present annual steel production at this plant amounts to 300,000 tons per annum. In 1955 this figure is planned to be 600,000 tons.

11. VEB DRESDEN

The HV Metallurgie, Ministry of Industry, DDR, BERLIN, has as from 1st February 1951 taken over this rolling mill plant from the state railways (Reichsbahn) and it is now termed a separate VEB under the direct control of the HV Metallurgie. The state railways are, according to a statement by KRAEMER, fnu, head of HV Metallurgie, at DRESDEN to the works management on approx. 1st February, 1951 not going to be given another such plant as replacement.

12. VEB DOEHLEN

Work has begun on the erection of the works halls for the new rolling mill section of this plant, which is to be built in conjunction with the high grade steel works to be erected here.

13. 1951 plan figures

The total VVB iron and steel production figures for the DDR (excluding SAGs.) for 1951 are:-

Crude iron	400,000 tons
" steel	1,500,000 "

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